

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 20-23, 32, 33, and 39 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19, 24-31, 34-38, and 40-50 are canceled. Claims 20, 22, 23, 32, 33, and 39 are amended by this response. Claims 22, 23, 32, 33, and 39 are independent claims

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claims 20-23, 32, 33, and 39 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the §112 rejections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have, per the Examiner's suggestion, re-written claims 20-23, 32, 33, and 39 accordingly, and have cancelled all other claims in the present application. Accordingly, allowance of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 20-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. With respect to dependent claim 20, Applicants have amended this claim stylistically and grammatically per the Examiner's suggestions. With respect to all other claims for which the Examiner issued a specific grounds of rejection, those claims have been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to them.

At least for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the §112 issues identified have been corrected. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 24-28, 29, 34-37, 40, 42, 44-46, 48, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0109388 to Sanders et al. ("Sanders"). These claims are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Takeuchi Rejection

Claims 30, 31, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders in view of Japanese Patent 07-329648 to Takeuchi. These claims are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Conclusion


At least in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680), at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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